AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (cancelled)

2. (currently amended): The ~~camshaft as claimed in claim 1~~ method as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that the shaft ~~(13)~~ is of tubular configuration.

3. (currently amended): The ~~camshaft as claimed in claim 1~~ method as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that the shaft ~~(13)~~, in the sections in which the cams ~~(30, 30'; 36, 36'; 46, 46')~~ are placed, has an enlarged external diameter.

4. (currently amended): The ~~camshaft~~ method as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that, in the sections having the enlarged external diameter, circumferential beads ~~(14, 15)~~ are incorporated in the shaft.

5. (currently amended): The ~~camshaft~~ method as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterized in that the cams (30', 46') have~~ further comprising forming on the inner side of the cam a ring ~~means (12, 32)~~ for creating a positive connection to the shaft ~~(13)~~.

6. (currently amended): The ~~camshaft~~ method as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the ring ~~means for creating a positive connection~~ comprises projections ~~(12)~~ or ribs ~~(32)~~ which protrude radially inward.

7. (currently amended): The ~~camshaft as claimed in claim 1~~ method as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that the free ends of the cams ~~(30, 30'; 36, 36'; 46, 46')~~ are welded together by means of resistance welding.

8. (currently amended): The ~~camshaft~~ method as claimed in claim 7, ~~characterized in that the cams have~~ further comprising forming a recess ~~(41)~~ in the region of ~~the~~ a weld seam ~~(29)~~ on ~~the~~ an inner side ~~of the ring~~, which recess receives ~~the~~ a bead ~~(31)~~ formed during the welding.

9. (currently amended): The ~~camshaft as claimed in claim 1~~ method as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that the cams ~~(36, 36')~~ are produced in such a way from a profile strip ~~(34, 34')~~ of thickness which varies over the strip length that the cams ~~(36, 36')~~ enclose the shaft ~~(13)~~ with an angle of enclosure ~~(UW)~~ which is greater than the angle of enclosure which is predefined by the cam profile if the strip thickness is constant, and in particular measures 360°.

10. (currently amended): The ~~camshaft~~ method as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the process accommodates a profile strip ~~(34') has~~ having two shoulders ~~(37, 38)~~ disposed symmetrically to a center plane.

11. (currently amended): The ~~camshaft~~ method as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the process accommodates a profile strip ~~(34) has~~ having in the middle a thickening ~~(35)~~.

12. (currently amended): The ~~camshaft as claimed in claim 1~~ method as claimed in claim 15, characterized ~~in that~~ by producing the cams ~~(46, 46') are produced~~ from a profile strip ~~(17, 17')~~ of constant thickness, and in that, on ~~the~~ an inner side of ~~the~~ a ring of the cam, ~~the~~ an angle of enclosure ~~(UW)~~ is enlarged by a forming process~~, in particular is brought to 360°~~.

13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended): The ~~camshaft as claimed in claim 1~~ method as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that the cams ~~(30, 30'; 36, 36'; 46, 46')~~ are produced from a profile strip ~~(17')~~ which has two layers ~~(17a, 17b)~~ of different material lying one above the other.

15. (currently amended): A method for producing a camshaft ~~as claimed in claim 1, in which method~~ having a shaft with at least one annular cam, comprising:

~~cams (30, 30'; 36, 36'; 46, 46') are produced~~ producing one or more cams from one or more profile strips ~~(17, 17'; 34, 34') by bending~~, respectively, each said strip having opposed free ends, by subjecting each said strip to a first forming step that provides a bent strip with an elevation, then subjecting said bent strip to a second forming step, wherein said second forming step provides the impression of an indentation and transports material outward in an axial direction in a region of the elevation of the cam and heaps up the material, and then subjecting said bent strip to a third forming step such that the finished cam has an annular form and can

enclose the shaft with an angle of enclosure of 360°, and subsequently welding together ~~of~~ the free ends ~~and are then fastened~~;

sliding said at least one cam with an annular form onto the shaft; and

fastening said at least one cam on ~~a~~ the shaft ~~(13)~~ at a predefined location and in a predefined alignment, ~~characterized in that~~ the cams ~~(30, 30'; 36, 36'; 46, 46') are~~ being positively and/or non-positively connected to the shaft ~~(13) by being slid onto the shaft (13)~~.

16. (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that the shaft ~~(13)~~ is first enlarged in terms of the external diameter in a section which is earmarked for the seat of a cam, and in that the associated cam is subsequently slid onto this section of the shaft ~~(13)~~.

17. (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 16, characterized in that, for the enlargement of the external diameter, circumferential beads ~~(14, 15)~~ are created on the shaft ~~(13)~~ by a rolling operation.

18. (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that, for the production of the cams ~~(36, 36')~~, a profile strip ~~(34, 34')~~ of varying thickness is used, such that the cams ~~(36, 36')~~ enclose the shaft ~~(13)~~ with an angle of enclosure ~~(UW)~~ which is greater than the angle of enclosure which is predefined by the cam profile if the strip thickness is constant, and in particular measures 360°.

19. (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that, on the inner side of the ring of the cams ~~(30', 46')~~, means ~~(12, 32)~~ for creating a positive connection to the shaft ~~(13)~~ are produced by a forming process, which means comprise, in particular, projections ~~(12)~~ or ribs ~~(32)~~ which protrude radially inward.

20. - 21. (cancelled):

22. (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that the profile strips ~~(17, 17'; 34, 34')~~ are created from a round wire ~~by forming methods, in particular~~ by rolling ~~methods~~.

23. (new): The method as claimed in claim 15, further comprising:

using a forming tool having on its top side an upwardly protruding head part which is laterally joined by two lower-lining circular, arc-shaped shoulders, where a radius of the shoulders is chosen such that it equates to a radius of an opening in the cam enclosing the shaft.